

All's well -- or is it?

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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

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## Black leaders: Despite problems black community can succeed

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

"For black folks with skills, (Winston-Salem) is a feast. There are a lot of opportunities out there. But for those without skills, with no prospects of getting skills, it is like starving in a land of plenty."

That's how one black leader recently summed up the situation for blacks in the Twin City.

The leader, Vernon L. Robinson, an assistant professor of business at Winston-Salem State University, was among 12 black leaders interviewed on the status of blacks in Winston-Salem. Robinson is also chairman of the 21st Century PAC of North Carolina.

Many of the leaders feel the way Robinson does,

that the opportunities are out there but blacks have to take advantage of them.

Of course there are some obstacles and problems that have to be dealt with -- unemployment, underemployment, crime, education, drugs, teen pregnancy, housing and so forth -- but nothing that can't be overcome, they say.

And the way to deal with these problems is collectively, the leaders say.

"Being born and raised in Winston-Salem, I know we have made some progress," said James Mack, president of Human Resource Consultants Inc.

"We're not close to the level of progress that we can make or should have made, but the potential is

here. We have strong, diverse leadership in Winston-Salem and what we need is a coalescing of that leadership."

And this coming together of leadership will have to involve all aspects of the black community because there is no one leader and no one group of leaders in the community, said Southeast Ward Alderman Larry W. Womble.

"All of us (blacks) are leaders or have the potential to become leaders," he said. "It's just a matter of putting that potential into action."

But one person interviewed said that this "coalescing" that other leaders talk about will be a while in coming if the black middle class doesn't wake up.

NAACP President Walter Marshall is critical of

the black middle class, saying that some of the community's problems exist because this class has amnesia.

"One of the big reasons I see some of the stuff exists is because of the lack of support from the so-called middle-class blacks -- people who've benefited from the civil rights struggle and are not paying back," he said. "There are too many blacks in high positions who turn their backs and look the other way."

But whoever or whatever the blame, the problems do exist and they are plentiful.

Marshall sees job discrimination and police brutality and treatment of blacks in the legal system as major problems. These are areas in which the NAACP

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## Board continues goals program

Black contractors want quotas

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city of Winston-Salem's minority and women business enterprise program will continue to be a goals program, although the city has authority to set quotas to insure minorities' and women's participation on contracts.

A local black contractors group, however, still has reservations about the present program.

Continuing the present goals program was one of 13 recommendations approved by the Board of Aldermen Monday night.

The recommendations are the result of a nine-month study done by a citizens task force reviewing the city's program.

Although the goals program will continue, a citizens advisory group will monitor the program and if necessary can recommend that the city set quotas for minority and female participation on projects.

Under the current program, the successful bidder on a city project is expected to subcontract a certain percentage of the work to minority- and women-owned companies. Goals are established by city staff and are based on the work to be subcontracted and the firms available to do the work.

A contractor not meeting the goals must docu-

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Reaching High

Velma Fields, chairman of the residential division of the United Way Phon-A-Thon, will continue with the agency's efforts to raise funds (James Parker)

## COVER STORY

Elijah refuses comment

## Sources say Urban League Board split

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem Urban League President Thomas J. Elijah Jr. has refused to comment on a growing division between himself and some members of the League's Board of Directors.

But a source close to the board said that a group of 11 of 19 board members has voted to relieve Elijah of his duties as president.

The source, who did not want to be named, says the group feels Elijah is unilaterally usurping prerogatives which rest solely with the board. For example, the source said, Elijah will not allow the board's treasurer to see the league's financial reports.

The source said that Elijah has attempted to remove from the board those members who have challenged his authority and has formed a new board.

Even though the national and regional Urban League has no authority to interfere in local Urban League matters, the official board has requested advice from these two higher league officials.

The source said that an opinion from the national office is expected soon. According to the by-laws of the Winston-Salem Urban League, the Board of Directors' members can be removed only by a majority vote of all the board members, not by the president. The by-laws also say that the president serves at the "pleasure of the board" and that his appointment

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## Carmichael offers students 'crazy' wisdom

By ANGIE MARTIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Stokely Carmichael, who led students through the "black power" movement nearly 20 years ago, said he knew students at Winston-Salem State University would say he was "crazy."

Speaking to approximately 280 WSSU students last Thursday, the controversial former chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, known as SNCC, who is now a member of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, mocked students, saying "I knew you were going to say, 'I heard he was crazy in the '60s, he's even crazier now.' ..."

Crazy or not, the once highly controversial student whose leadership encouraged African-American students to augment the non-violent civil rights movement with a request for more rapid change offered a unique syllabus for sanity which made students question what they're learning. Carmichael's appearance at

WSSU's Media Center was sponsored by the social sciences department.

In what turned out to be a 1 1/2-hour-long lesson on political theory, economics and on the contribution of African people in religion and history, Carmichael, with convicting accusation, told students what they did and did not know about themselves and their heritage.

The former Howard University student told students not to let their current educational pursuits distract them. "The American capitalist educational system will confuse you," he said.

He said that capitalists seek education for purely personal gain, and African-American students cannot afford to do that. "Knowledge is not a commodity. Its purpose is to eliminate the sufferings of humanity."

The energetic Carmichael was interrupted by applause often when he spoke of the "ignorance" many

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Former outspoken civil rights advocate Stokely Carmichael encouraged a student audience at Winston-Salem State University to question even things they thought to be true (photo by James Parker).

## Former cabinet member reveals references to 'Martin Luther Coon'

### Reagan officials made racist jokes

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON -- President Reagan's first secretary of education says mid-level Reagan administration officials made racist jokes and other scurrilous remarks during civil rights discussions at the White House.

L.H. Bell, in a memoir of President Reagan's first term, said the slurs included references to the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

He said "Martin Luther Coon" and calling Title IX, a federal law guaranteeing women equal educational opportunity, "the lesbian's bill of rights."

In his memoir, he says that "since I had heard Ronald Reagan speak so convincingly against all forms of discrimination, I felt that my own dedication to enforcement of the civil rights laws at the White House would have the full support of the president."

But he said, he was con-

fronted with "evidence of apparent bias among mid-level right-wing staffers at the White House and at OMB. I was shocked to hear their sick humor and racist clichés."

Bell did not identify those who made the racist or scurrilous comments. In his book, he says the jokes about King were made as Reagan was deciding whether to establish King's birthday as a holiday. gets, Bell writes.

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QUOTABLE: "Poverty is the most debilitating of all childhood diseases." PAGE A4

## White House actions cause of N.C. NAACP membership rise

By The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE -- A jump in membership in the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP and other civil rights groups can be linked to actions by the Reagan administration, which has cut student aid and anti-poverty programs and made it tougher to prove discrimination, officials of the groups say.

and at The Citadel in Charleston, has provoked concern.

"There is evidence of backsliding," says Bob Davis, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Political Caucus. "There seems to be an idea prevailing that we've had our chance, that it's time to put things back in order. The signal is coming from the nation's capital."

That political shift, combined with publicized Ku Klux Klan activities and racial attacks in places such as Howard Beach,

Membership in the North Carolina NAACP has climbed by a third in the past year as blacks complain

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